

**Initial Statement of Reasons  
Overview/Non-Controlling Summary**

**PROPOSED REGULATION 1705, RELIEF *from Liability*,**

Proposed Regulation 1705 is proposed to be revised to explain when a franchisee is relieved from the liability to pay tax based on erroneous written advice provided to its franchisor?

**Specific Purpose**

The purpose of the proposed regulation is to interpret, implement, and make specific Revenue and Taxation Code section 7261. This regulation is necessary to provide guidance to taxpayers affected by this statute.

**Factual Basis**

Revenue and Taxation Code section (Section) 6596 provides relief from tax, interest, and penalty charges due on a transaction if the Board determines that the taxpayer failed to pay tax because it reasonably relied on erroneous written advice from the Board. For relief to apply, the Board must have received a written request for advice on the transaction, the request must have identified the taxpayer to whom the advice applied, and the request must have fully described the facts and circumstances of the transaction. Section 6596 subdivision (d) states that, “[o]nly the person making the written request shall be entitled to rely on the board’s written advice to that person.” Accordingly, taxpayers cannot obtain relief by relying on a written opinion given to another business, even if the transactions are similar. However, a taxpayer may rely on advice given to the taxpayer’s representative provided that the representative identifies the person for whom the advice is requested. Regulation 1705, *Relief from Liability*, is based upon Section 6596 and explains its provisions in more detail. In 1999, Regulation 1705 was amended to extend Section 6596 relief to trade or industry association members when an association requests written advice on behalf of its members. In order to obtain relief under Section 6596, the members must be identified in the association’s request for advice. Proposed regulatory changes to sales and use tax regulation 1705, *will* explain that similar relief applies to franchisees and franchisors.

Pursuant to Government Code section 11346.5(a)(8), the Board of Equalization finds that the adoption of the proposed regulation will not have a significant adverse economic impact on private businesses or persons. The regulation is proposed to interpret, implement, and make specific the authorizing statutes. These changes will clarify the interpretation or administration of the sales and use tax laws. Therefore, the Board has determined that these changes will not have a significant adverse economic impact on private businesses or persons.